

ADJECTIVE CLAUSES – WHO VS. WHICH VS. THAT

Calabro

An **adjective clause** is a group of words, containing a subject and a verb, that modifies a noun. Adjective clauses contain relative pronouns, such as: *who*, *whom*, *whose*, *which*, and *that*.

Types of adjective clauses:

-restrictive (essential) clauses- limit the meaning of the nouns modified; add information that is necessary to the point of the sentence.

-ex: The cars *that were painted during the fall* look colorful.

-non-restrictive (non-essential) clauses- do not limit the meaning of the nouns modified; only serve to add supplementary information to the sentence.

-ex: The cars, *which were painted during the fall*, look colorful.

****In the first example sentence, there are many cars, but the writer is referring only to the ones that were painted during the fall. In the second sentence, there is one set of cars and the writer is reminding us that they were all painted during the fall, thus, the clause in the second sentence is non-essential.****

Rules:

1. *Who* and sometimes *that* refer to people. *Which* and *that* refer to things or groups.

-ex: Nina is the one *who* baked the cake

Carlos was on the team *that* lost the match

2. *That* introduces essential clauses. Essential clauses **do not** have commas surrounding them.

-ex: The results *that* came from the cell experiments are very exciting.

3. *Which* introduces non-essential clauses. Non-essential clauses **do have** commas surrounding them.

-ex: Our lab benches, *which* were cleaned over the summer, are dirty again.

4. Sometimes, if the word *that* has already appeared in a sentence, writers will use *which* for the next clause, even if it is an essential clause.

-ex: *That which* doesn't kill you makes you stronger.

Quizzes- Choose the correct sentence.

1. Bill was the man *which* I hired to fix my car.

Bill was the man *who* I hired to fix my car.

2. That is the lotion *that* caused my allergic reaction

That is the lotion *which* caused my allergic reaction

3. The kid, *that* causes all the trouble, has started behaving

The kid *that* causes all the trouble has started behaving.

-Fill in the blank:

1 students were given a study guide for topics _____ were going to be on the exam.

2. The students were give topics from chapters 1-5 _____ were going to be on the exam.